

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Burma

DATE DISTR. 27 OCT 49

SUBJECT Activities of the People's Democratic Force in the Proma Area

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1. The Central Organization Committee of the People's Democratic Force (PDF), Proma, issued a pamphlet to its armed forces sometime in August 1949.
2. The pamphlet is addressed in the main to armed forces of the PDF and exhorts them to continue their resistance to hasten the inevitable triumph of the Democratic Front. Recent government successes in Yenangyaung and Tharrawaddy are described as temporary setbacks which have no bearing on the ultimate outcome of the struggle. Since the PDF enjoys the confidence of the masses and is carrying out a program for the amelioration of the conditions of the masses, PDF forces are bidden to take heart in the certainty that their cause is just and will ultimately prevail.
3. The pamphlet goes on to draw a comparison between events in China and in Burma. Thakin Nu and his government are likened to CHIANG Kai-shek and the Kuomintang which enjoyed a series of initial successes but were eventually overcome by the Communists. The task of the PDF is difficult; not only do they have to contend with fascist Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL) forces, but also with the forces of the reactionary Socialists (People's Peace Guerrillas). Red Flags and Karens are similarly bent on disrupting the revolutionary program of the PDF. Despite all these enemies and temporary setbacks, readers are enjoined to remember the successes of the Communists in China and to rest assured that the success of the PDF is inevitable.
4. The pamphlet ends with a section addressed directly to "Comrade officers and men" of the armed forces of the PDF. The following instructions are included:

Every officer and every man will attack the enemy wherever he is ordered to do so. The enemy includes government forces, Red Flags, Karens and the People's Peace Guerrillas.

Severe punishment is to be meted out to those who show the white feather or who retreat without orders.

Rewards will be given to those who distinguish themselves in battle and whose conduct and discipline are exemplary.

This section of the pamphlet is issued by the Central Army Headquarters.

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People's Liberation Army (People's Volunteer Organization element), the Central Army Headquarters People's Army (Burma Communist Party), and the Central Headquarters Revolting Burma (Burma Rifles mutineers).

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☐ Comment. The general tone of the pamphlet suggests doubt in the minds of the leaders as to the outcome of the struggle in PDF controlled areas. In particular do the instructions in paragraph 4 argue misgivings as to the quality and reliability of PDF forces.

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